

Parish of

# Holy Trinity and St Barnabas

Parish Profile- 2025



**A Christ-Centred Church in the Heart of the Community.**

## Parish of Holy Trinity and St Barnabas Parish Statement- 2025

### Introduction.

The Parish of Holy Trinity and St Barnabas welcomes interest in the position of Priest in Charge and provides the following profile of background information on the place of the church in the local area.

Members of the parish team would also be willing to provide further information or assist in a personal visit if required. Contact details are provided at the end of this statement.

### Background of the parish.

The parish is situated in the west of the historic cathedral city of Carlisle. The population of the administrative county district of Carlisle is 108,400 with about 77,728 within the urban main centre. There are good road and rail communications to the City of Carlisle.

The present Parish was created in 1976, combining the original parish of Holy Trinity dating from about 1834 with St Barnabas built in the 1930's to cater for the large extension of social housing at that time on the Raffles Estate. Although historically worship took place over three venues across the area, the parish now has one church building which it works from.



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*"I find St Barnabas a nice place to be,  
I like how we do lots of fun  
activities and how we pray  
before dinner, I like when we all  
have our dinner together" E- aged 9 years*

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The Parish covers a large, diverse area stretching from Caldewgate, adjacent to the city centre, to the western boundaries of the urban area and has a Parish population of 15,317 on the 2021 census. The parish has 7080 occupied households (2021 Census) and the size of the parish will increase

further over the coming years with new housing developments currently planned. This means that the parish is situated in a changing environment of older and modern housing estates together with new modern housing developments. The population of the parish is very mixed, with large areas of social housing, first-time buyer properties plus private housing estates. The Holy Trinity and St Barnabas electoral role currently stands at 66. There is a hostel for homeless men in the parish, the Cumberland Infirmary, The university of Northumberland's Hall of Residence, industrial estates, a number of private and residential care homes, sheltered housing complexes, five primary schools, a sixth form for young adults with profound learning disabilities, a community centre and a community hub. Secondary schools are located either adjacent to the western edge of the parish or in the City Centre. Church urban fund ranks the parish amongst one of the most deprived in the country



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*“We are starting to see growth from the seeds being planted through our monthly Tea@StB- Sadie, who is now 5 years old, has been coming along since we started in January 2024- She now tells others St Barnabas is her church and that is where you go to learn about Jesus!- This is a great encouragement to continue Gods work”*

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## **St Barnabas Church Building**

The church was completed in 1936 as part of the City population growth and movement to the Raffles estate. They are Grade II listed buildings arising from the merit of the architecture as an example of the period. It is situated in a central position to the parish.

The church is located adjacent to the Raffles Estate, a large social housing area that has been subject of Urban Priority Area status and community initiatives. There is also public parkland within 50 yards of the church that follows a small stream to the parish boundary beyond Sandsfield.

The church hall was sold in 2016 to fund the development of the church building to include an office, new kitchen, and toilet facilities which are also disabled friendly all of this now makes the building accessible and fit for purpose for the wider community.

The church has seating for approximately 160 and has an average congregation of around 25 for a 10am Eucharist Service or Morning Prayer and an average congregation of between 30 and 40 at the monthly Saturday family 'Tea@StB' service.

The church has a pipe organ, however this is not currently in use, so worship is led on occasion from the piano or by CDs. The congregations enjoy a mix of traditional and more contemporary hymns and music.

There are both Rainbow and Brownie groups which use the church, alongside a weekly youth group in collaboration with Network Youth Church.

At the last quinquennial condition survey, the work needing to be done is not considered to be particularly onerous at the present time. There is some cosmetic work currently being undertaken within the church. The outside of the building does require rendering and decoration. There is both sound amplification and a hearing loop systems in place.

## **Worship style of parish.**

Our parish offers a variety of styles of worship throughout the month. We have in the past held a Wednesday morning Communion service in the Lady Chapel. On Sundays our service styles include Holy Communion when a priest is present to preside (using common worship) and either

communion by extension or morning prayer as led by a Reader, which while they are welcoming and appreciated by all who attend, they are traditional in structure and content. In addition, we hold a café style worship service, once a month also on a Sunday morning, this service reflects a more relaxed style of morning service.

We also hold a monthly family service on a Saturday afternoons- Tea@StB. This has a very open style of worship led in the main by the children themselves. This includes prayers, a bible story/reading and talk, music, crafts and of course food.

We also hold services in the year that highlight key moments in the church calendar- Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, All Souls Day to name a few. These services also allow us more opportunities to bring our congregations and our wider community together.

Other services are available to the community deal with the essential passage of life issues- baptism, weddings and funerals.

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*"I like St Barnabas as we get to be together with Jesus, and we also get to do lots of fun stuff all together with our friends and family, we get to connect with God. I like reading in church as I like to be at the front reading the bible for others" H- aged 11 years.*

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*"I feel through helping at the church a sense of belonging. It is one way we can give back to our community- loving our neighbours as Jesus taught us. We learn together, it is a place where we can be completely ourselves and I always leave spiritually fulfilled and ready for the coming days."*

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## **Current Mission and Outreach.**



We have a number of mission and outreach initiatives within our parish. We have a monthly service in three local care homes (Lanercost House- Berkley Grange, Applegarth car home- Newtown Road and Kingston Court care home- Newtown road). We believe these are vital outreach for our parish, ensuring those who may not be able to come to the church building can still join together to worship. We currently have connections with four out of the five primary schools in our parish working in partnership with the Belle Vue Church of the Nazarene- a great example of this work is we made 700 Christingles with the children in these Primary schools in the run up to Christmas 2024 alongside an assembly in each school. Two of these local primary schools hold their Christmas nativity and carol services in our church.



We have a fortnightly 'Get Together' group which attracts older members of our community, providing prayer opportunities alongside social interactions and day trips away. We have a monthly Women's Group which meets in a pub for a meal together which talking about scripture- this group is attended by both church members and community members who are just starting to grow their faith. Our women's weekly bible study group meets in the local community hub, again attended by both church members and community members.

We provide a weekly food bank for our community- currently this supports around 50 families a week. Given the level of poverty within the Parish and surrounding area, the partnering with other organisations enables this highly successful and much appreciated outreach to be offered thanks to a committed group of volunteers. This is an essential aspect of our core belief at St Barnabas of caring for those less fortunate-We are not just sharing food, we are sharing love and compassion for others in our community. The foodbank has been valuable for not just building links with

members of our community but also other services in our parish and in our city. One of our volunteers has featured in 'The Kinder Kitchen' cookbook which was produced by the Cumberland Building Society who has funded our Fareshare food costs for the last two years and some of the volunteers attended a thank you event hosted by Helen Skelton where they were presented with an award in recognition for the kindness shown by St Barnabas Church for our community. It is through the work of the churches foodbank that our Church Warden- Mrs Yvonne Swainson- was invited to open the Cumberland Building Society's newly refurbished branch in the City Centre in October 2024.



We have been blessed over the last four years with funding for holiday activities from the Department of Education through Cumberland Council. In summer 2024 we provided 2662 meals for children and families in our community alongside providing warm, safe spaces for families to have fun together while we share the love of Jesus with all who come along. We have seen some inspiring and encouraging conversations at these activities, we are asked to pray for people and their situations, and children are asking questions about Jesus- families which started attending these activities now attend our monthly family service, café church service and volunteer with our church in many ways.



We have recently started a weekly youth group working with Network Youth Church. Building on the connections we have made through the holiday activities and the work we have done over the past two years, this is an exciting opportunity for the young people we currently have contact with and those who we meet over the coming months. At the time of writing this profile, we have 4 young people asking about confirmation.



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*“I really enjoyed YOTC, I didn’t know anyone so was a bit unsure about coming but they all talked to me and made sure I wasn’t sat on my own, they talk to me at school now, it’s nice to have new friends” P- aged 14 years*

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### **Mission Community and Other Churches in the Parish.**

We have worked particularly closely with St Lukes Church, in Morton, over the last seven years. We are part of the ‘Two Rivers’ mission community which includes 4 other Church of England churches ( St Lukes in Morton, St James in Denton Holme, St Michaels in Stanwix, St Marks in Belah) and two Methodist churches (Carlisle Methodist Church- Wigton Road, Newtown Road Methodist Church). Church leaders in the mission community meet weekly online for prayer on Thursday mornings and try to meet in person monthly. Over the past year there has been a number of mission opportunities Two Rivers has worked on together including Prayer walking the parks of the City, a visible presence at a ‘Show and Tell’ event in Bitts Park which was attended by around 4000 people and a visible presence at Dalston show.





Alongside the mission community there is also one Roman Catholic Church, a Church of the Nazarene and a number of free churches within the parish, ecumenical relationships are very good.

### **Financial position.**

For a parish seeking to maintain a full time clergy presence to fulfil the worship requirements across a parish of this size alongside its mission opportunities throughout the Parish, the financial situation will be challenging. The diocesan ministry offer for 2024 was £1000, and we have agreed that our Parish Share for 2025 be £1500. We do have a building up for sale (Holy Trinity Hall, Stanhope Road) which is currently under offer which once sold will allow us to contribute a more substantial amount to our ministry offer.

The Parish does need to increase significantly the current average level of regular giving and to find new sources of income through its Mission Development Plan. We do not have a stewardship campaign in place for 2025. However the parish ended 2024 in a slightly better financial position than it did in 2023 and this is encouraging to our continued mission to grow Gods kingdom here within our parish.

### **Housing.**

The Diocese is committed to purchasing an appropriate 4 bedroomed house for this post within the benefice and is actively working on that at the moment. More details can be provided on request.

### **Staffing and Lay Support.**

The staffing and lay support in the Parish is currently:

#### ***Retired Clergy:***

- Revd Barrie Thomas
- Revd Eleanor Hancock

**Reader:**

- Mr Geoffrey Bland

**Reader Emeritus:**

- Mr Richard Stewart

**Lay Ministers:**

- Mrs Maria Holmes- Mission and Outreach
- Mrs Gemma McManus- Pastoral care and Pioneer Ministry

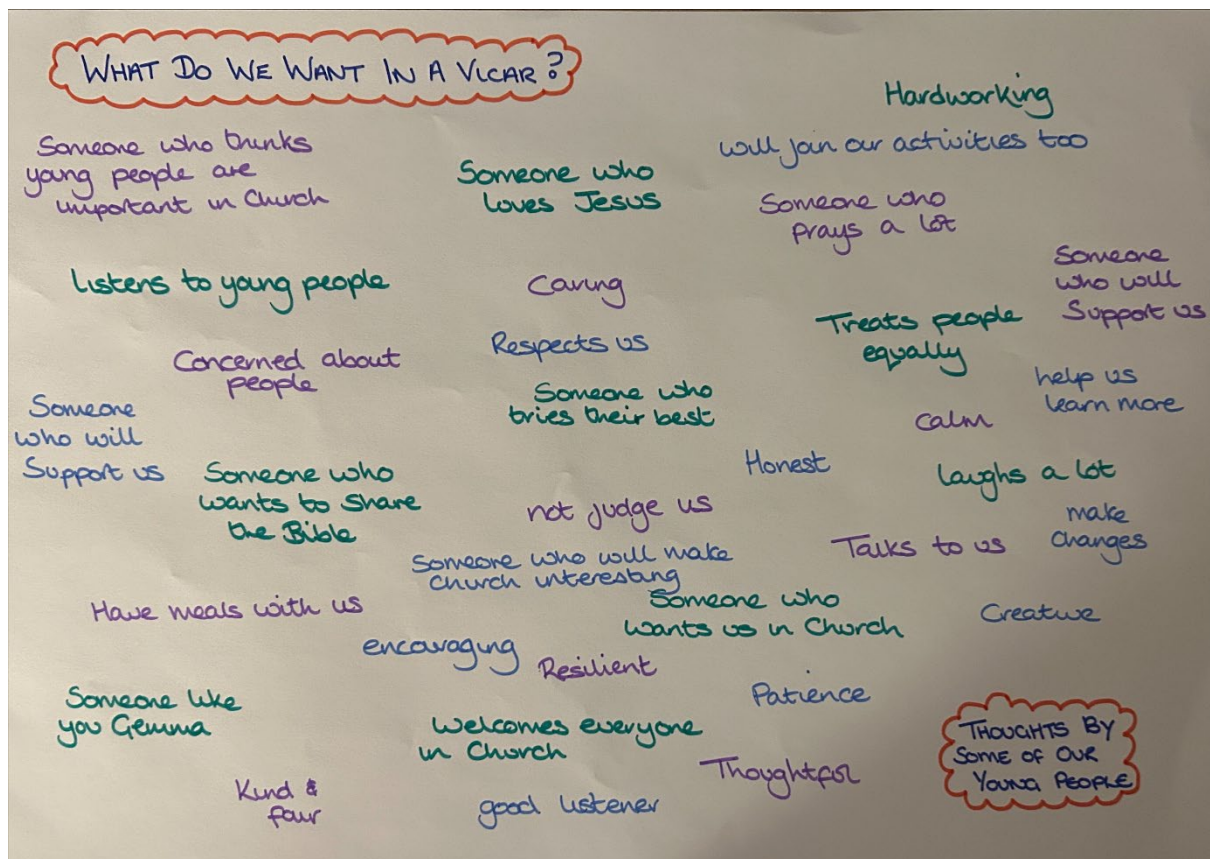
There is also a dedicated group of PCC members and volunteers who gives hours of time to our church and our mission.

**The Way Ahead.**

The Parish is seeking to continue to build on the existing mission and outreach. There is great potential in our communities to meet with people where they are, to share Jesus, to learn together as people grow in their own faith and to build God Kingdom here on earth.

**Personal Attributes.**

The Parish accepts the ministry of both men and women as equally valid and is happy to work with either. It is expected that the Priest in Charge would have a similar view.



The Parish requires someone with a strong theological understanding who is a strong team leader. Someone with the vision to see what, with the help of God, might be achieved in this large and diverse parish by encouraging, nurturing and growing with people in their faith journey. Someone who has the wisdom and patience to know that there will inevitably be a gap between vision and the reality.

It is essential that the Priest in Charge understands and is enthusiastic about team ministry, values and invests in lay ministry to support the growth of God's kingdom through St Barnabas Church. The Priest in Charge needs to be able to lead, enthuse and enable the people, be capable of recognising and encouraging their qualities and skills, some of which may be lacking in his or her own ministry.

The Parish seek a person who can show an open style and share not only with clergy members but also with the laity, enabling their co-operation in ministry both within the parish and beyond.

Because of the wide diversity of social backgrounds of the areas served by the Parish, it is essential the Priest in Charge should feel comfortable communicating across a wide spectrum of society. While it is recognised that much work still has to be undertaken within the Raffles Estate itself; it is hoped that the person appointed would be involved in continuing the programme of community work there, it is increasingly apparent that the Priest in Charge needs to reach out to the whole Parish, making the Church more relevant to the community where the greatest potential for family engagement lies.

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*“Someone who gets who we are and values our opinions,  
not dismissed because we don’t have a lot of money  
or go to church on a Sunday”*

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In summary, the Priest in Charge we are looking for, is a person who:

- Is a good communicator;
- Who can relate to other members of the Team in a collaborative way;
- Who will be gently pro-active in his/her ministry;
- Who is spiritually aware of the needs of a diverse group of people;
- Who will have vision and energy and will feel committed to the challenges offered by the role of Priest in Charge.

The Parish would welcome someone who feels called to minister in an area which is a challenge, who feels led to reach out to those ‘inside’ and ‘outside’ the Church in our Parish and who would expect to enable the members of the Church to reach out to the world beyond our small worshipping community in our large parish area.

### **Conclusion and further contact.**

Inevitably this short statement has only provided a summary profile of a varied Parish and there may be further queries or more information required. The Archdeacon would be willing to respond to any further enquiries or requests for information and applicants would be welcome a personal visit should this be requested.